

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
February 20, 2004

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, February 20, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Mr. Napoleon Moore, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, Mr. Lawrence Warren, Mrs. Brenda Yonge and Ms. Veldore Young.

Members not present: Major General Denver Brackeen and Mr. Jimmy Murphy.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Mr. John Adcock, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Mr. Jason Carter, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mr. Duane Hamill, Mr. Rodney Hodges, Mrs. Eloise Richardson, Mr. Danny Seal, Mr. Jim Southward and Mrs. Denise Walley.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Bill Smith – IHL; Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College; Mr. Chuck Rubisoff – Attorney General's Office; Ms. Jean King – Rankin County ABE; Mr. Victor Richardson – Northwest MS Community College and Ms. Christine Arture – (Student) Hinds Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

Ms. Patricia Randall gave the invocation.

Approval of the Minutes of the January 16, 2004, Meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2004, meeting.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Ms. Patricia Randall and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Stonecypher began by stating his appreciation for the support of the Joint Education Meeting on February 19, 2004. He anticipates a future less formal meeting with the Education Board Members.

Mr. Chuck Rubisoff from the Attorney General's Office was introduced. Mr. Rubisoff, who is assigned to the Institutions of Higher Learning, will be sitting in to give legal assistance if needed. There has been discussion of the possibility of SBCJC contracting with those in Mr. Rubisoff's office for support.

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Dr. Stonecypher introduced Mr. John Adcock, a retiree from East Central Community College, who is on contract with the SBCJC office to help with the transfer of the day-to-day activities of post-secondary vocational-technical education from MDE to SBCJC. Mr. Adcock gave an overview of what he expects to accomplish over the next few months; such as, a qualifications manual that will be used for guidelines of hiring instructors for post-secondary vocational-technical programs and reviewing the curriculums to assure that they meet state standards, as well as updating the practical nursing program standards. He also stated that a committee is working on improving the articulation between secondary education and post-secondary education.

Mr. Jason Carter, a new employee filling the vacant Accounting/Personnel Manager position in the Finance Division was then introduced.

Dr. Stonecypher stated that he received a call from a parent expressing appreciation for the Board's supportive position on occupational diplomas, which would give her son an opportunity to pursue his goal of entering a marketing program at Hinds Community College. Further, Mr. Jim Southward reported on a conversation with Mr. Wayne Baker, the Associative Executive Director for NJCAA, regarding acceptance of the occupational diploma for athletic eligibility purposes. NJCAA will recognize the occupational diploma once they have received (in writing) the State Department of Education's assurance that the occupational diploma carries the same weight as any other secondary diploma.

Dr. Stonecypher explained House Bill 973 and Senate Bill 2539, which relates to Workforce Education and its structure. In both bills, the Workforce Centers will be the one-stop centers for Workforce Training. There are also committee add-ons concerning community colleges managing small business development and tax credits for training. Dr. Stonecypher stated that efforts are continuously being made to assure stable funding for workforce training.

Dr. Stonecypher talked about Senate Bill 2451, a bill that requires counties to support their community college at the current millage rate or at 27% of instruction costs, whichever is greater. With the passage of this bill local funds could increase to the colleges by approximately \$11 million. He also reported on Senate Bill 2628, which is referred to as "Streamline Mississippi" that addresses ways of saving money.

Mr. Southward gave an update on Athletics. State Basketball tournaments start February 23 at Northeast Mississippi, with the finals being played Thursday evening. The regular season champions for the North are Northeast (women) and Northwest (men); and the South winners were East Central (women) and Jones County (men).

Mr. Duane Hamill described the upcoming Quality Awards program that is part of the Workforce Development efforts toward Best Practices. There will be a luncheon recognizing the businesses that participate, in which Governor Barbour is scheduled to hand out the awards on March 26, 2004, at the Pearl River Resort. Mr. Hamill extended an invitation to the Board and shared a handout that listed the recipients of awards (Exhibit A).

Dr. Stonecypher provided a packet that contained various articles and House Bill 2451 for the Board's information (Exhibit B).

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis began by stating that the Association voted for the first time to financially

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support the Annual State Student Art Competition. The Association also heard a presentation by Mr. Fred Green with MBS Direct, explaining services they could provide to assist with the textbook problems that have occurred with the MSVCC on-line courses and financial aid.

Dr. Henry Johnson, Superintendent of Education, met with the Association regarding concerns about the ACT being used as a placement tool at the community colleges. Dr. Stonecypher will work with Dr. Davis and Dr. Johnson to organize a study group to look into options for other types of placement testing; however, current legislation requires students receiving the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) to have a certain ACT score to be eligible to receive the grant.

Mr. Ben Piazza, legal counsel for Hinds Community College, gave a brief report regarding efforts to change the requirement of background checks for students in allied health programs that were receiving part of their training at local hospitals. Currently, the State Department of Health is taking the position that as long as students are working in the facility they are considered a (contractual) employee and must have a background check. Meetings are continuing with the Attorney General's office for their assistance in the acceptance of signed affidavits. Mr. Piazza stated that the only other alternative is through legislation.

The Association had a discussion regarding the Occupational Diploma and courses that are required to receive it. As Dr. Stonecypher had mentioned earlier, some of the colleges are still considering whether or not they wish to accept the occupational diploma as a regular diploma. There was also a discussion regarding The Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

In closing, Dr. Davis stated that the Presidents would soon discuss and take a position on each bill that has been introduced that has a direct or indirect effect on the community/junior colleges, to assure a uniform effort with the legislators.

ABE/GED Special Guests

In introduction, Mrs. Eloise Richardson related her excitement in having the opportunity for Mr. Victor Richardson and Ms. Christine Arture to speak to the Board. Mr. Richardson is not only the lead instructor for Northwest Mississippi Community College, but he is one of four teacher trainers that is helping to train the twenty-one ABE instructors to become train-the-trainers that are located throughout Mississippi.

Mr. Richardson explained what happens when a student starts the ABE/GED program. At the very beginning a student is given a pre-test (locator test) to determine the student's grade level. Once that level is determined, an instruction plan is developed in reading, language and math. After approximately 100 hours of instruction has been completed a post-test is given to check the student's progress. If improvement has been made the student is promoted to a higher level; this procedure repeats until the student is ready for the GED test. Once the student is ready for the GED test they are given the GED practice test; if they do well on the practice test they are ready to take the actual GED test.

Ms. Christine Arture gave a testimonial of being a single parent struggling to support herself and her child when she entered the ABE program. She praised the instructors for the encouragement that they gave and the curriculum for being easy to follow. She passed the GED test in March of 2003 and used the same curriculum to study for her ACT, in which she made a 21. She is now on her second semester at Hinds and plans to enter into an Allied Health program next year. She received a scholarship from the PACE learning system that is used to teach the

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ABE students and also received a scholarship from Hinds Community College. Ms. Arture stated that she highly recommends to everyone she meets that does not have a high school diploma or GED to contact their local ABE Center.

In addition, to give the Board a better idea of the duties of an ABE instructor, Mrs. Richardson played a short video demonstrating the "Various Hats of a ABE Instructor" that was created by Ms Cathy Nevels with Pearl River Community College. The video will be used as part of the instructor training.

*The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

EdNet Report

Dr. Larry Day reported that the EdNet Board last met on January 26, 2004. During the meeting it was approved by the Board to plan to bring the WorldCom Bankruptcy claim to a close. In exchange for resending a claim for financial damages, EdNet expects WorldCom to provide the following: 1) All equipment owed to EdNet as part of the original system build-out currently stored in WorldCom's warehouses; 2) All transmission and other equipment currently located on state property or on Mississippi Public Broadcasting towers; 3) Continued payment for utility and tower lease costs associated with the operation of EdNet's transmission sites, as long as WorldCom continues to broadcast the MMDS signals from facilities located on ETV towers; and 4) Provide EdNet \$250,000 in financial compensation.

Another item related to EdNet working with the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH) on their "Health Alert Network" project, whereby a grant would be issued with MSDH as the lead agency having CDCs provide training to the hospitals in Mississippi; and EdNet would be responsible for getting the information to the hospitals. Recently, EdNet received a call from MSDH to inform them that their portion of the project had been cancelled, but there is confusion as to the reason why and who made this decision. Mr. Mangold has been asked to look into this matter.

Workforce Report

Mr. Walker reported that the Workforce Council met on February 11, 2004. Those present were advised that this would be the last State Workforce Council meeting, due to consolidation with the WIA Board which will be the surviving entity, as outlined in House Bill 973 and Senate Bill 2539.

Program Report

Dr. Bradberry reported that Copiah-Lincoln Community College has requested to change the name of their Paper and Chemical Technology Program to Process Technology. Two options will be included: 1) Paper and Chemical, and 2) Oil and Gas. **Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the Board voted unanimously to approve the name change and options that were requested by Copiah-Lincoln Community College.**

Dr. Bradberry also reported that Dr. John Jordan with the State Department of Education is leading a committee to study the legislative mandate on how dual enrollment/dual credit should be carried out.

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Legislative Report

Dr. Bradberry provided a list of Bills that are currently being tracked that have a direct or indirect effect on the community colleges or the SBCJC and gave a brief explanation of the Bills (see Exhibit C). The Governor has not made a recommendation at this time for the empty slot in the Fifth Congressional District that became available when Mr. Akins was elected as a State Representative.

Location of Classes for Spring Semester for 2004

Dr. Larry Day provided an additional location submitted by Pearl River Community College (see Exhibit D). **Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Ms. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to approve Pearl River's submitted request for location of classes at Pearl River Elementary School.**

Dr. Stonecypher stated that staff will be working on a policy sometime in the future for the Board's consideration regarding building or purchasing branch campuses.

Finance Report

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented the items on the Finance Agenda for information and action.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Ms. Veldore Young, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the General Fund 2298 Disbursements for March 2004 in the total amount of \$7,456,588.00, as shown in "Exhibit E".

Upon a motion by Ms. Patricia Randall and a second by Ms. Veldore Young, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement for January 31, 2004 from Fund 4080 (\$2,440,983.74) and Fund 4110 (\$55,357.02) in the total amount of \$2,496,340.76, as shown in "Exhibit F".

The following items were presented in report form, with no action required:

Mrs. Gilbert gave a Funding Formula Update (Exhibit G)

Financial Statement for Funds 2291 and Special Funds as of January 31, 2004 (Exhibit H)

The renewal of Fidelity Bonds for the Board and Staff for February 5, 2004 through February 5, 2007. The premium of \$934 per year will provide \$250,000.00 coverage with a \$2,500.00 deductible.

Upcoming Visit to Itawamba Community College

Dr. Bradberry announced that Itawamba Community College will host the April Board meeting on the April 15-16. The Board Office will be handling the arrangements at the Courtyard by Marriott in Tupelo for the Board and Staff attending the meeting.

In discussing the invitation to Northeast Mississippi Community College that was previously set for September 2004, **a motion was made by Ms. Veldore Young and seconded by Mr.**

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Napolean Moore, and unanimously passed that the visit be postponed until October 2004.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursement for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. **Upon a motion by Ms. Patricia Randall and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations, as follows:**

Mr. George Walker attended the State Workforce Council Meeting on February 10-11; he plans to attend meetings in Jackson on February 23 and 24, with Dr. Olon Ray regarding Mississippi Educational Involvement and the MACJC meeting.

Mr. Lawrence Warren, Mr. Napolean Moore and Ms. Veldore Young attended the MACJC Legislative Luncheon on February 5, 2004.

OTHER BUSINESS

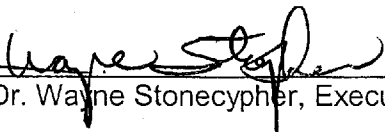
Dr. Stonecypher reported that Mississippi Delta Community College had notified their Board of the SBCJC's decision to uphold action taken by the Executive Director that was outlined in his December 8, 2003 letter to their President, and that the SBCJC Board declined their request for an appeal. Dr. Stonecypher stated that Mississippi Delta requested a one-month extension on the reallocation of funds to meet the request, which was granted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.



Mr. George Walker, Chairman



Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director